

2013 Annual Town of Slaughter Beach Newsletter

We would like to say hello to everyone and welcome to all our new residents. Slaughter Beach is a unique and beautiful town that we all choose to call **HOME!** There are not many people that have the views we all have and the peaceful safe community. Though we are a small town, there is still a lot to do to keep us moving forward. As a result, we rely on the help of all our residents, as there is virtually no other support staff for our Town Council. It is the Town Council that works for the greater good of us all! Please remember we are residents the same as you, except presently we are taking our turn serving. It is basically a volunteer position done with all our best interests at heart. Slaughter Beach was founded 332 years ago, that is something we should all be proud of.

We are small town America at its best. A place where neighbors watch out for neighbors! Many of our residents are out and about walking, biking, or riding. They may see a trash can blown and replace it to its proper spot, a mailbox open and shut the door, a newspaper in the road and pitch it up in the yard, a window or door open in the winter and notify someone to call the owner, water running after a freeze and call the water company and owner, or see a shed or garage door open and shut it. Flowers are brought to those not feeling well, rides are given to doctor and other appointments, pets are watched, meals are shared... Bottom line: we're a community that cares for one another. **Slaughter Beach is its people, and we are Slaughter Beach!**

NEWS:

Tax Collector- George Beideman is **retiring** after decades of service to our Town. He's a past councilman, vice mayor, town treasurer, etc. George gave tirelessly to our Town for decades and his services will be greatly missed. George also for years was the Town maintenance man, keeping our Town properties mowed, maintained, and neat. He did many more things over the years without thanks or payment even. We sincerely thank George for his years of service and dedication. Enjoy your retirement George! We hope to see you and Pat bike riding more.

Building Inspector- Kenny Draper resigned after years of service. He came aboard at a time we really needed someone with his expertise. We thank Kenny for his years of service to our Town.

Town Clerk- Kellei Wells resigned after some years of faithful service to the Town. We thank her for her years of service and dedication.

Yoga- Most Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. at the fire hall a group of town residents meet for yoga class. It is free of charge and led by resident Yogi Janice Bergin. All residents are welcome to attend these gentle yoga classes. Namaste!

An Old Tradition Begun- Christmas Caroling- This past Christmas season a group of residents (16) joined together to spread the Christmas Spirit amongst our own town residents, caroling too many of the elderly and those ill and/or fighting illnesses. The event was well received by those caroled to and enjoyed by the carolers. It was a beautiful evening for all. If you would like to join in on the fun this year, an email reminder will be sent out as the time approaches. Tentatively the date is the Sunday before Christmas. We caravan from home to home, knock on the door, stand outside and sing with candles and flashlights. Advance notice is given to the recipients.

Something New- Community Social Hour- The 1st Friday of each month in June, July, August and September at 5 p.m. there will be a gathering of interested town residents at our town pavilion to socialize, meet and greet with one another in an informal public environment. Come join in the fun and socialize with your fellow Slaughter Beachers. Bring an appetizer or snack for the table if you'd like, etc... This event will evolve as it progresses. Please come help promote community spirit and friendships! **Come one, come all!**

Jazzercise at the Beach- Wednesday, May 8th at 11:30 a.m. at the pavilion area a group of local women and their fellow (men & women) classmates from the weekly Jazzercise class at Milford Senior Center are coming to Slaughter Beach to enjoy our community for a "Jazzercise at the Beach Day." All residents are welcome to join them in a Jazzercise class and picnic lunch to follow. It will be a pot luck lunch, so please bring a dish to add to the assortment. Please come join in the fun and welcome the group to our fine Town. It'll be a nice way to begin the spring and summer seasons. Marianne Magee is the instructor (certified) and the class will be free of charge. The rain date will be Wednesday, May 15 at 11:30, will all else remaining the same.

DuPont Nature Center- Saturday, May 18 they will host the **Peace, Love, & Horseshoe Crab Festival** from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mark your calendar for some fun!

Delaware Nature Society- They provide programs within our Town at their property, the Marvel Tract, and on our beach to educate school children and others on the diverse environments and habitats here. This summer they hope, in conjunction with the Town, to hold some nature programs here open to our residents. They have many programs and activities for folks of all ages at their facilities; check out their website at www.delawarenatureociety.org...

WELCOME AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION:

Recent outgoing council members- We recognize and thank Frank Draper for his years of service as Mayor; Amelia Anzulot for her years of service as councilwoman, treasurer, and vice mayor; and Steve Masten for his years of service as vice mayor and secretary, and Tom Reiss as vice mayor.

Building Inspector- We welcome Joe Hallock as our new Building Inspector; Joe is a town resident and local contractor with decades of construction experience. Joe is the husband of Vice Mayor, Janice Bergin.

Bob Clendaniel, former mayor and resident and still a town property owner, fills in when Joe has a contracting job or other situation that requires it- at the request of the mayor. Thank you to both of these gentlemen.

Town Auditor- Ruth Ann Beideman (George Beideman's sister). Ruth Ann has fulfilled this position for decades. She is a wealth of information and an asset to our community with her vast recall, knowledge, and dedication.

New Tax Collector- We welcome Angela Tibbitt, CPA as the Town's new Tax Collector. Angela, a resident of Argo's Corner, is employed by Ray Book & Associates and has been Tax Collector for Bowers Beach for the past 8 years to present. We welcome Angela aboard and thank her for accepting this position. Angela lives in Argo's Corner with her husband Jim, a commercial fisherman and outdoorsman, and their 2 children.

Town Clerk- We welcome Kathy McFadden. Kathy is the daughter of Helen and Charlie McFadden, long- time Town residents. We thank Kathy for coming aboard with her vast talents to fill this position. Kathy is employed at Milford Senior Center as their activities director, too. Previously she was a teacher of museum studies._

Public Pavilion and Restroom Keeper- Rose Rafter- Rose for years has cleaned and maintained these public areas. She gives special and extra attention to the appearance and upkeep of our public areas. We thank Rose for her continuing good work and wish her well!

Town Attorney- The Town has returned to the legal services of Hudson, Jones, Jaywork, & Fisher. Barrett Edwards is our new town attorney with the assistance, when needed, of Terry Jaywork. Barrett is a fine young man, easy to work with, and resides in the Dover area with his wife and 3 children. The Jaywork family has been property owners in Slaughter Beach for years, Mrs. Jaywork, Terry's mother, passed away a few years ago. She was a lovely and vibrant lady, and is missed by all who knew her.

Town Maintenance Superintendent- resident Greg Lock has graciously accepted this position. We are fortunate to find a Town resident such as Greg willing to take on this position, more as a hobby than job!

Finance Committee - resident Kathy Lock and council members Dan McCarthy and Bill Krause

Town Street Committee - residents Jimmy Dalton, John Lyons, and Mike Erisman, plus council member Jack Gingrich

Zoning Commission- residents Bill McSpadden, Wes Starr, and Tom Reiss

Board of Adjustment (BOA) - residents Gerry Maher, Louise Sipple, and Jimmy Dalton

Board of Elections (BOE) – residents Pat Beideman and Shawna McSpadden are willing to be reappointed, and a third appointee will be selected.

Phragmites Control; CLUP(Comprehensive Land Use Plan); Beach Grass Planting; Beach Clean-up;

Town Web Site; etc...- resident Bill McSpadden. We sincerely thank Bill for all he does behind the scenes to benefit our town.

Grant writer- Kathy Lock lends her talents to the Town for this along with the endless hours it takes.

Memorial Volunteer Fire Co- We thank them for their presence in Town and for the many services they provide to help ensure our safety and well-being. Furthermore, we sincerely thank them for the use of their building for Town meetings and business which has long been the tradition here in Slaughter Beach. Additionally, we appreciate them allowing the yoga class to meet at the firehouse. A special thanks for their assistance throughout Superstorm Sandy this past October. The Fire Company will be installing a new electronic sign in the near future where they will be providing Fire Company and community information. Please watch for it. Visit their web site and learn more- www.memorialfire89.com

Mark Wells- We thank him for his willingness to do snow plowing of some town streets when needed for a very reasonable rate.

On behalf of the Town, the Town Council sincerely thanks and recognizes all these folks who selflessly give of their time for us all! For the Town and Town Council are only as good as we, the residents, are as a whole! Though some of these folks may be paid, still they give of their time far beyond the call of duty for us- one and all! Please be sure to recognize and thank them when you see them!

YEARLY EVENTS:

YARD SALE

The Annual Town Yard Sale will be held over the Memorial Day weekend starting Friday, May 24, 2013 and ending Monday, May 27, 2013. The event will be advertised in a local newspaper and on the Town website. If it rains for more than 2 consecutive days, the sale will be held the following weekend.

ANNUAL LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

Large Item Pick-Up will be on Monday, June 3, 2013. Place items next to your regular trash. Any items (e.g., refrigerators, freezers, A/Cs) which may contain refrigerant (Freon) must bear an official tag stating it has been removed. This pick-up service is meant to help residents get rid of difficult to dispose of items from their Slaughter Beach property.

INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

The fifth annual **Slaughter Beach Sailing Club's Regatta** will be held on Thursday, July 4, 2013. Tentative times are below. Come early to get your spot on the beach. Plans are to launch from Delaware Ave North. If you have a catamaran, monohull, or a kayak and want to participate or would like additional information, contact Harry Ward at 09sbbsc@gmail.com. If you don't have a boat and still want to join in the fun, come out and watch. Bring an umbrella and chair if desired. Food, beverages and souvenirs are generally available. **Come one, come all! It is a wonderful community and family affair!** Thank you to **Harry and Sandy Ward and family** for always ensuring it is a great event. All their friends too, who offer support and help. Here is the tentative schedule:

- * Kids race- 3:30 p.m.
- * Kayak race- 4:00 p.m.
- * Monohull (Sunfish) race- 4:30 p.m.
- * Catamaran race- 5:30 p.m.
- * All races will start at Delaware Ave North

As of now, once again, there will **not** be a July 4th fireworks display at Slaughter Beach as the State Fire Marshal has determined that conditions are not safe on the beach. *Remember, state law prohibits setting your own fireworks.*

TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

We welcome and encourage all town residents to attend our Town Council meetings. Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room on the 2nd floor of the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company. The access door is on the south side of the building. The meetings tend to be a couple of hours long as that is the one night a month to conduct town business in an open and transparent environment. Meetings are civil and have a style unique to our Town and present Council. Please come and be part of the process. Come and stay as little or as long as you like, the door is always open! We would like to thank all the residents who come regularly to meetings. The Council truly appreciates and respects your involvement. The **Annual Town Meeting** will be **Saturday, June 8, 2013, at 4:00 pm.**

If necessary, the Town Council Election will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. - noon in the fire hall. This year, the terms of Jack Gingrich and Bill Krause will expire. Anyone desiring to run for one of these seats must file a Certificate of Intent, obtained from any council member, or the Town clerk from April 9th until Monday, June 10, 2013. To be eligible, you must be at least 21 years of age; have not been convicted of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude; either be a property owner or have lived full-time in the Town for the six months immediately prior to the election. The **deadline** for submitting a Certificate of Intent is Monday, June 10, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

TRASH COLLECTION

Regular trash pickup is every Monday morning year round. Please place your trash in proper containers. Please note this service is not for vehicle parts, tires or construction debris. Disposal of these items is still the responsibility of the individual property owner.

YARD WASTE

As of January 1, 2011, the Delaware Solid Waste Authority ordered the Sussex County landfill to stop taking yard waste. Yard waste is defined as "all plant materials resulting from lawn maintenance and landscaping activities. These include grass clippings, leaves, prunings, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter". Remember, yard waste can no longer be co-mingled with regular trash. Residents are encouraged to compost their yard waste and are reminded that it is illegal to dispose of it on the dunes or in the marsh.

UNIVERSAL RECYCLING

Curbside recycling for our Town began the first week in September 2011, with pick-up being every other week throughout the year. Each residence was provided with a 65-gallon recycling cart. Included with this newsletter is a list of acceptable items for recycling. Please don't have loose items in your recycling bin that can blow out when the bin is mechanically dumped. Wrap things in bags please. For additional information go to www.dswa.com...

MOSQUITO CONTROL

If mosquitoes are unbearable in your part of town, please contact Councilperson Jack Gingrich at: (302) 265-2258 or jbgingrich@comcast.net and leave a message with your Slaughter Beach address and telephone number. He will contact Mosquito Control to request spraying. Once contacted, a Mosquito Control representative will be sent to determine if spraying is necessary. If warranted, it may take up to a week before the spraying is done. Also, please keep in mind that *Slaughter Beach has mosquitoes* and we're asking that you report only higher than normal populations.

TOWN PROJECTS:

***Beach Replenishment**- We continue to keep up to date with the Delaware Bay 10 year beach replenishment plan and the work study group.

***Floodplain Ordinance**- This will be updated as required by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Town is working hard to stay abreast and up to date on all things regarding FEMA and NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) which is of vital importance to us.

***Grant**- Coastal Management Assistance Grant through DNREC's Delaware Coastal Program office. The purpose of this grant is to assist the Town Council in the planning and design of an on the ground adaptation project to compensate for Sea Level Rise (SLR). Specifically, the grant application will request no more than \$20,000 in DNREC funds. Should the grant be awarded, the Town intends to hire an engineering firm to assist in determining which houses might meet the criteria for DEMA/FEMA grant funds to elevate flood prone properties. This action is identified as Mitigation Action #4 in the "Multi- Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan" adopted by the Town Council on September 4, 2012.

*Amending the **Town Zoning Ordinance** is in the works. There will be a workshop and perhaps a special meeting to complete the changes. Scheduled workshops and any special meetings will be posted as required. Plus, you will all be notified by U.S. mail and/or email when the public hearing to review the proposed final changes is scheduled.

***Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)** - is in the process of being updated as required by State law. The Town is working with the Office of State Planning Coordination through the re-certification process.

*The **Phragmites Control Program** Grant – We are hopeful that Federal funding to DE Forestry Service will again be available this year. Anyone who has previously signed a contract will be included in this year's spraying in the fall. If you are enrolled in the program, please do not cut down any live phragmites because spraying will not be effective. Any property owner who wants to be included or would like additional information, please contact the Town office.

***Municipal Streets** – This past year our **State Representative Harvey Kenton** through his Community Transportation Fund paved Beach Plum Drive for the Town. No Town monies were required. Representative Kenton was a pleasure to work with and provided our Town with a great opportunity. Bob Nash of Bob Nash Associates Surveying & Land Design generously donated copies of previous Town street surveys needed. With this project, we sincerely thank Representative Harvey Kenton, DelDot engineer Jim Wyatt, Bob Nash, and all others that contributed to this fine effort.

***New Town Web Site**- Through a free program offered to municipalities by the State agency GIC (Government Information Center) we have a new Town web site in the works. Many changes will be made and the web site will be enhanced with future postings of Town meeting agendas and minutes. Please be sure to visit it and check for its new features and look soon at www.slaughterbeach.delaware.gov

***Electronic Radar Sign**- Using some of the Sussex County Shared Grant monies last year we purchased the radar sign. There are four locations within Town where it will be rotated periodically. Where you notice an approximate 3' reflective post is a site. We hope that all will pay attention to this sign and curtail their speed accordingly. This is meant to help keep us and our visitors more aware and safe.

***Town Park**- We are looking into upgrading the park and making it more user friendly for us all!

***TOWN STREETS**- New street signs are being erected where needed along Passwaters Dr.

***THE DELAWARE BAYSHORE INITIATIVE**- The Town is participating in this program which was kicked off here last May, 12th and is part of the national vision for America's Great Outdoors. The Bayshore Initiative goals are conservation, low impact recreation, and stronger communities. Read more at www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Pages/Delaware.Bayshore.aspx. Also follow the town minutes for updates.

REMINDERS:

Speeding- Since speeding remains a problem within Town limits, the Town will once again contract with the Delaware State Police for radar patrols. Fellow residents, please give our children, our habitat, and your wallet a break by obeying the speed limit. We additionally hope you will pay attention to our radar sign as it's repositioned throughout the town, and slow down. Driving responsibly protects us all- young and old.

Permits- Our Building Inspector is Joe Hallock. He may be reached at (302) 491- 6165 or (302)-236-6423 and his email address is sbbuildinginspector@comcast.net. If you are planning any additions, improvements, remodeling or repair work to your property, please contact him to find out if a permit is required. Remember, there are Town, Sussex County, DNREC, and FEMA regulations that must be followed or work will be halted.

Code Enforcer- Presently, each council member acts as code enforcer as needed. So contact accordingly, our numbers are listed below. Please remember, we are not the police or dog catcher, etc. Also please try to make contact during normal business hours between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. preferably. If an emergency, please call 911. For most dog issues call the SPCA (302-856-6361). If there's a problem with your neighbor, please try and work it out with her/him first. The Town Code is meant to make all our lives more enjoyable and to enhance life within our Town. They will be enforced evenly across the board. Please respect the rights of others as you'd like to be respected.

Bonfires- Bonfires are allowed on the beach by property owners. Before proceeding, check with the Memorial Volunteer Fire Company (422-8888) to see what burn bans may be in effect. Please use your good judgment and don't have a fire if the wind is blowing. Stay clear of dune grass and do not leave the fire unattended. When you are finished, extinguish the fire, completely cover all ashes, and clean up all debris before leaving.

Parking- The Town Council is once again asking citizens not to disturb or remove the survey monuments that have been placed at the corners of each street and reminding them that doing so is illegal. Also, please remember that all Slaughter Beach residents must supply parking for their personal and visitors' vehicles on their own lot. Overnight *parking on the public streets is not allowed under our Town Ordinance*. In addition, placement of anything permanent or semi-permanent on the streets is not allowed.

Public Restrooms- This year, the restrooms will be open daily from April 1st through October 31st (weather permitting). The hours will be 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday; 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Tuesday; and 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays. One exception is that on Monday closing time may vary - either before or after 8 p.m.

Dogs- Town Ordinance states the following: "The owner of any dog within the Town shall keep the same securely upon his own premises or under the direct and immediate control of the said owner or some other person by means of physical restraint (leash, cord, chain, rope or fence) or by training and audible or visual command. No dog shall be permitted to run at large within the Town at any time." Signs have been posted at the end of Town streets with the phone number for Animal Control. Rental property owners are responsible for conveying these rules to their tenants. Please be sure to let renters know. Barking dogs are also a concern. Please don't allow your dogs barking to bother your neighbors or fellow residents. Occasional barking is much different from continual. Remember to be a good neighbor!

Roadside & Beach Trash- Let's keep our roadways and beach clean, especially those coming into town and those surrounding us- Lighthouse and Fowler Rds. Please, when able, take a bag and pick up trash when you see it. Trash seems to beget trash.

Enhanced 911 System- As a Sussex County resident, you are required to properly post your home address on your property using 3" reflective numbers on your mailbox or 4" reflective numbers on your house as part of the Enhanced 911 System. You can register your address and find out more about the Enhanced 911 System by going online to www.sussexcountytde.gov, select Residents and select 911 Addressing.

Local Habitat- Each spring, we have our own "tourists" who can use a helping hand.

-Baby Diamondback Terrapin turtles are emerging from the sand and crossing to the marsh. Keep an eye on the road for them.

-Nesting Female Diamondbacks are moving from the marsh to the beach. If you move them from the road, move them in the direction they are going.

-Shorebirds have started to arrive. Please keep a distance, especially with dogs, so they can feed and be on their way.

-Horseshoe Crabs are returning. Please flip them so they can crawl safely back to the water. If you find one with a tag, call the number listed and please DO NOT remove the tag.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

* Citizens willing to donate their time are needed for the following projects:

*2013 Annual Slaughter Beach **Horseshoe Crab Spawning Survey** dates are in May and June. Please see Bill Rafter at the Slaughter Beach Mini Mart for details. A training session will be held on April 27 @ 4- 5 p.m. on Marvel Drive. Please register for training with Bill if interested.

*Annual Coastal Clean Up -Saturday, September 21, 2013. Check the DNREC website for details.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

www.dnrec.delaware.gov, www.horshoecrab.org, www.merrinstitute.org, www.dupontnaturecenter

dnrec.state.de.us, www.memorialfire89.com, www.dswa.com, www.delabc.com,
www.delawarenaturesociety.org www.dswa.com/programs_yard.asp

TOWN OFFICE:

If you need to speak with a Town official, please call the Town office at (302) 424-7659 and leave a message or use the town e-mail address, townofslaughterbeach@comcast.net.

The **Town Council** strives to provide a welcoming, collaborative atmosphere to all agencies and entities it must work with, along with you, our residents. Please feel free to contact council members with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have.

IMPORTANT REQUEST:

The **Town Council requests that you sign up with the Town's email service as directed below.**

From time to time the council sends out pertinent emails to residents, for example: town updates, announcements, hurricane and storm warnings, briefings and updates, thefts in town, road construction, etc. Also, if a neighbor or fellow resident notices something unusual at your residence, this is a timely way in which to contact you.

To register, use the following email address – slaughterbeachsignup@comcast.net. Please include your full name, Slaughter Beach address, email address, and phone number. Your email information will not be shared with anyone or used for any purpose other than relaying Town business.

Town Officials

Mayor: Amy J. Reed Parker 422-5814(h)
Vice Mayor: Janice Bergin 491-6165(h)
Treasurer: Dan McCarthy 424-0721(h)
Secretary: Bill Krause 610-239-6796(c)
Councilperson: Jack Gingrich 265-2258(c)
Tax Collector: Angela Tibbitt 424-1127(h)
Building Inspector: Joe Hallock 491-6165(h) 236-6423(c)
Code Enforcement: presently any councilperson
Town Clerk: Kathy McFadden 424-3925